

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed on September 14, 2005, has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Prior to this paper, claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11-27 were pending, with claims 6 and 15-22 being withdrawn from consideration. By this paper, Applicants cancel claims 1, 7, 23, 24 and 27, and amends claims 2, 3, 6, 15 and 25 to depend from allowed claim 8. No claims are added. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 11-22 and 25-26 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance for the reasons that follow.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank Examiner Torres for allowing claims 8, 11-14 and 26.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103

Claims 1-3, 7, 23-25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Burgdorf (United States Patent No. 4,678,804), or, in the alternative, as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Burgdorf in view of Klein (United States Patent No. 5,472,264). In response, in order to advance prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 7, 23, 24 and 27, and have amended the dependencies of the remaining claims to depend from claim 8, a claim that has been indicated as allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102/103 are now moot.

Rejoinder of Claims 6 and 15-22

Claims 6 and 15-22 stand withdrawn. Applicants note that these claims, as amended depend either directly or ultimately from claim 8, a claim indicated as being allowable. Applicants respectfully request that these claims be rejoined and allowed due to their dependency from an allowable claim. Applicants respectfully submit that no significant burden is placed on the PTO by rejoining and examining these claims. Indeed, such action is concomitant with the indication that “upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim.”

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Examiner Torres is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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